

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A lipase inhibitor comprising an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* as an active ingredient.

2. (Original) A lipase inhibitor comprising a purified substance of the extract according to claim 1 as an active ingredient.

3. (Currently amended) The lipase inhibitor according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, which is in the form of food and drink.

4. (Original) The lipase inhibitor according to claim 3, which is in the form of healthy food or food for specified health uses for the treatment and/or prevention of obesity.

5. (Original) The lipase inhibitor according to claim 3, which is in the form of healthy food or food for specified health uses for the treatment and/or prevention of hyperlipemia.

6. (Original) A plasma triglyceride-lowering agent comprising an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* as an active ingredient.

7. (Original) A method of inhibiting lipase activity, which comprises administering an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* to a mammal.

8. (Original) A method of treating and/or preventing obesity or hyperlipemia, which comprises administering an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* to a mammal.

9. (Original) A method of lowering plasma triglyceride, which comprises administering an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* to a mammal.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Use of an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum~~ A method for producing a medicine or food and drink which inhibits lipase activity, which comprises preparing an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum as an active ingredient.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Use of an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum~~ A method for producing a medicine or food and drink for treating and/or preventing obesity or hyperlipemia, which comprises preparing an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum as an active ingredient.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Use of an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum~~ A method for producing a medicine or food and drink which lowers plasma triglyceride, which comprises preparing an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum as an active ingredient.